



Holiday Lighted Boat Parade decorates the Petaluma Harbor

A flotilla of decorated boats streams into the Petaluma River Turning Basin on Saturday, Dec. 6 at about 6:30 p.m. in celebration of the holiday season.

Individual boaters and local yacht clubs join in the Petaluma Lighted Boat Parade each year. Boats aglow with colored lights and holiday decorations start from the Petaluma Marina at dusk to sail into the Historic Downtown Harbor against the darkening sky.

The flotilla remains on view all evening in Historic Downtown harbor behind the Great Petaluma Mill at 6 Petaluma Blvd. No. and "B" Street. Following the Lighted Boat Parade, visitors and local residents mingle in Historic Downtown, gathering to dine, snack or enjoy the remainder of the evening's entertainment at the many nearby restaurants or clubs.

The Lighted Boat Parade has a 20-plus year tradition of illuminating the Petaluma Turning Basin during the holiday season. The event is traditionally organized by the volunteer members of a Petaluma Yacht Club committee who donate their time and resources. Santa and Mrs. Claus sometimes cruise in on the lead boat and carolers usually sing at the dock.

The boats are sterned-in by the Petaluma Sea Scouts. The Coast Guard Auxiliary also assists, making the event a community effort aimed at creating a serene and stunning holiday scene. For more information call the Petaluma Visitor Center at (707) 769-0429.